

Message Text

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51

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

AID-20 DRC-01 EB-11 SR-02 ORM-03 IO-13 AGR-20 /153 W

----- 022651

R 061135Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6820

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 15995

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, MILI, VS

SUBJECT: MONTHLY I CORPS COMMANDER'S CONFERENCE

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

HWEREWITH FOL TEL ACTION SAIGON INFO USDAO SAIGON NHA TRANG
BIEN HOA CAN THO SEP 04 73 FM DANANG REPT'D FOR UR INFO QTE

1. SUMMARY: THE MONTHLY COMMANDERS' CONFERENCE CHAIRED BY LTGEN TRUONG WAS HELD ON SEPT. 1. INTELLIGENCE REPORTED THAT FOR THELYDNRTOF THE YEAR THE ENEMY WAS NOT EXPECTED TO LAUNCH MORE THAN SMALL-SCALE LIMITED OPERATIONS. AUGUST CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS INCREASED THIRTY-ONE PERCENT. THE PROVINCE CHIEFS REPORTED ON THE EFFORT TO BLOCK TRADE WITH THE ENEMY. SEVERAL COMPLAINED ABOUT A LACK OF SUPPLIES NECESSARY FOR RESETTLEMENT AND RETURN-TO-VILLAGE PROGRAMS. GEN. TRUONG ORDERED GREATER EFFORT IN SETTLING WAR VICTIMS, BETTER PLANNING AND USE OF RF BATTALIONS, LESS RELIANCE ON SANDBAGS AND MORE ON TRENCHES, AND HE ABSOLUTELY FORBADE COLLECTIONS FROM THE TROOPS OR GIFTS TO SUPERIORS, HOWEVER INNOCENT THE MOTIVE. END SUMMARY.

2. THE MR-1 INTELLIGENCE AND OPERATIONS OFFICERS REPORTED THAT DURING AUGUST ENEMY ACTIVITIES HAD INCREASED (VIOLATIONS LISTED AS 282 OR A THIRTY-ONE PERCENT INCREASE). THERE WAS NO SIGNIFI-
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CANT ENEMY ACTIVITY IN QUANG TRI, BUT THE PRG CONTINUES AN EX-

TENSIVE TCAINING PROGRAM AND HAS RESETTLED A NUMBER OF REFUGEES. IN THUA THIEN THE ENEMY INCREASED OPERATIONS WEST AND SOUTHWEST OF HUE TO PREVENT ARVN FROM CONSOLIDATING TERRITORY IN THE WEST AND TO PREVENT RESUPPLY OF THE OUTPOST ON BACH MA. IN QUANG NAM THE ENEMY WAS PRIMARILY ENGAGED IN ATTEMPTING TO ATTRACT THE CIVILIAN POPULATION TO ITS ZONE. A REPORT INDICATES THAT THEY MEAN TO GIVE A RESETTLEMENT ALLOWANCE OF 30,000 TO 100,000 PIASTERS TO EACH NEW FAMILY. ALSO IN QUANG NAM SOME LOCAL ENEMY UNITS, HAVING BEEN RETRAINED, WILL BE SENT BACK INTO THE LOW-LANDS. IN QUANG TIN LOCAL FORCES HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO USE ONE-THIRD OF THEIR STRENGTH FOR MILITARY OPERATIONS, AND TWO-THIRDS FOR TRAINING AND REAR-SERVICE ACTIVITIES. ONE HUNDRED YOUNGSTERS WERE SENT NORTH IN AUGUST. IN QUANG NGAI LOCAL FORCES RECEIVED SIX HUNDRED REPLACEMENTS FROM NORTH VIET NAM AND THE SECOND NVA DIVISION RECEIVED 400 TO 500. ENEMY ACTIVITY INCREASED, AIMED MOSTLY AT ARVN UNITS IN THE NORTHERN PART OF THE PROVINCE.

3. THROUGHOUT MR-1 THE ENEMY CONSTRUCTED FORTY-THREE KILOMETERS OF ROAD. FOUR TO SIX SHIPS DAILY ARE MOORED AT DONG-HA OFF-LOADING SUPPLIES. ENEMY PROCUREMENT FROM THE GVN ZONE HAS DECREASED BY 60 TO 80 PERCENT. ON THE OTHER HAND, THEY HAVE CONSTRUCTED FOURTEEN THOUSAND HOUSING UNITS ALONG THE MAIN ROADS FOR THE CIVILIAN POPULATION AND NINETY-FIVE THOUSAND PEOPLE HAVE BEEN RESETTLED, OF WHICH FOURTEEN THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED HAVE BEEN SENT FROM NORTH VIET-NAM.

4. THE INTELLIGENCE OFFICER ESTIMATES THAT THE ENEMY WILL NOT LAUNCH ANY LARGE-SCALE CAMPAIGNS, BUT WILL CONTINUE SMALL LOCAL ATTACKS TO DEFEND AREAS UNDER HIS CONTROL AND PREVENT ARVN FROM EXPANDING ITS TERRITORY. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT IN SEPTEMBER THE ENEMY WILL LAUNCH A SHORT PHASE OF OPERATIONS TO FIRM-UP THE SPIRIT OF HIS TROOPS AND TO MARK COMING COMMUNIST HOLIDAYS. A LARGE SCALE OFFENSIVE WOULD PROBABLY TAKE PLACE ONLY AFTER THE NATIONAL CONVENTION OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY TO BE HELD IN HANOI EARLY NEXT YEAR.

5. THE OPERATIONS OFFICER REPORTED AN INCREASE IN THE ASSIGNED STRENGTH OF THE RF BATTALIONS, BUT HE NOTED A DISCREPANCY IN THE PRESENT-FOR -OPERATIONS STRENGTH REPORTED BY SECTORS AND THE STRENGTH REPORTED BY DIVISIONS WHEN THE RF BATTALIONS WERE CONFIDENTIAL

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ATTACHED TO THEM. FORTY-ONE OF THE HEAVY-WEAPONS PLATOONS OF THE FIFTY RF BATTALIONS HAD COMPLETED TRAINING BUT ONLY FIFTY-FOUR PERCENT OF THE 57MM RECOILLESS RIFLES AND EIGHTY-EIGHT PERCENT OF THE 81MM MORTARS ARE ON HAND. SEVENTEEN OF THE RF BATTALIONS WERE RATED AS GOOD, TWENTY-TWO AVERAGE, AND ELEVEN POOR.

6. THE PROVINCE CHIEFS REPORTED SOME SUCCESS IN THEIR PROGRAMS TO BLOCK TRADE WITH THE ENEMY. SEV

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973SAIGON15995
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS MARTIN
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730951/aaaablkd.tel
Line Count: 110
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 06 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06-Dec-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <28-Dec-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MONTHLY I CORPS COMMANDER'S CONFERENCE CINCPAC FOR POLAD
TAGS: PINT, MILI, VS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005